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LAKELAND MAN SENTENCED FOR DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

Tampa, Florida - U.S. District Judge Richard A. Lazzara, today sentenced Gary Linton, age 47, to eighty seven months' imprisonment for distribution of child pornography. Linton pled guilty on July 12, 2007.

According to court documents, on October 5, 2006, when a search warrant was executed on his residence, Linton's computer was turned on and logged in. It was determined that twenty other computers were engaged in active file downloading of sexually explicit visual depictions involving minors from Linton's computer .

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation Innocent Images Task Force. The FBI's Innocent Images Task Force is a multi-agency task force comprised of the FBI, the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, the Largo Police Department, the Manatee County Sheriff's Office, the Lakeland Police Department, and the United States Probation Office. The Task Force is an intelligence driven, proactive investigative initiative that combats the proliferation of child pornography and child sexual exploitation facilitated by the Internet. The mission of the Innocent Images Task Force is to reduce the vulnerability of children to acts of sexual exploitation and abuse facilitated through computers; identify and rescue witting and unwitting child victims; and to investigate and

prosecute sexual predators who use the Internet to sexually exploit children for personal and financial gain. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Patricia A. Kerwin.
